

EMS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2013

GENERAL INFORMATION

UPCOMING EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Next Meeting: July 16-18, 2013
In conjunction with CLINCON
Caribe Royale Resort
8101 World Center Drive
Orlando, FL 32821
407.238.8000 / 800.823.8300

EMS STATE AWARDS

The Florida Department of Health (DOH), EMS Program in conjunction with the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center will hold the 23rd Annual EMS Awards Ceremony, the evening of July 17th at the Caribe Royale Resort.

The awards selection committee is in the process of scoring nominations and supporting documentation. Once complete, award recommendations will be submitted to the EMS Program Administrator for final review. Recipients of each award will be notified prior to National EMS Week.

If you or your organization would like to assist in sponsorship of the event, please contact Desi Lassiter, EMS Awards Coordinator at 850.245.4055 or via email at desi_lassiter@doh.state.fl.us

TRAINING & EDUCATION SECTION

TRAINING

There are 70 schools offering 181 EMT and paramedic training programs.

There are currently 42 Continuing Education Providers offering 1,272 continuing education courses.

2013 certification examination statistics are as follows:

- 940 EMT first time test takers with a 73.5% pass rate.
- 486 Paramedic first time test takers with an 81% pass rate.

Florida currently has a total of 31,400 certified EMTs and 27,397 certified paramedics.

INSPECTIONS

30 EMS providers have been inspected for 2013. 50% of these inspections were announced while 50% were unannounced. Inspectors are continuing to see deficiencies in pediatric supplies and equipment as well as expired personnel files such as ACLS cards, CPR cards, and EVOC certificates.

LICENSURE

There are 272 EMS providers currently licensed in the state with 4,374 permitted vehicles. **The EMS Program is consistently receiving applications that are missing documents and/or are incomplete. Please review your application thoroughly for all required information before submitting.**

The following information refers to timely service renewal applications submitted to this department.

Florida Statute 120.52(10)

(10) License means a franchise, permit, certification, registration, charter, or similar form of authorization required by law, but it does not include a license required primarily for revenue purposes when issuance of the license is merely a ministerial act.

Florida Statute 401.26(5)(a)

(5) In order to renew a vehicle or aircraft permit issued pursuant to this part, the applicant must:

Submit a renewal application. Such application must be received by the department not more than 90 days or less than 30 days prior to the expiration of the permit.

Florida Statute 401.251(5)(a)

(5) In order to renew a license for air ambulance service, the applicant must:

(a) Submit a renewal application to the department not more than 90 days nor less than 60 days before the license expires.

Therefore a ground license application must be received in the EMS Program no less than 30 days prior to expiration. An air ambulance license application must be received no less than 60 days prior to expiration. If these dates are not adhered to, your service will be subject to administrative action.

STATEWIDE PLANNING SECTION

INVESTIGATION

BEMOs Investigation Section operates in conjunction with Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) to investigate complaints against EMTs and paramedics. BEMO continues to investigate complaints against EMS providers, training schools and 911 PSTs. Upon completion of the investigative process, all case files regarding EMTs and paramedics are prosecuted by Julia Forrester of MQA Prosecution Services Unit, and all case files regarding EMS providers, training schools, and 911 PSTs are prosecuted by Caryl Kilinski of the DOH Office of General Counsel.

All complaints against individual **EMTs and/or paramedics** should be sent to:
Florida Department of Health, Medical Quality Assurance, Consumer Services Unit
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-75, Tallahassee, FL 32399

All complaint against Florida EMS providers, training schools and 911 PSTs should be sent to:

Florida Department of Health, BEMO, Investigation Section
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A22, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1722

For current disciplinary information against EMTs/paramedics, visit www.flhealthsource.com

Complaints Received during January – March 2013

48 – EMT and/or paramedic

13 - EMS ALS provider and/or EMS training school

Probable Cause Panel Meetings Held during January – March 2013

1 Probable Cause Panel Meeting was held and a total of 23 cases were reviewed.

Disciplinary Actions taken for January –March 2013

11 Closures

EMSC FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP GRANT

The EMS for Children program received a Notice of Grant Award Authorization from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) on February 15, 2013 for grant funds totaling \$110,000. The grant will end on February 28, 2014.

The primary goals of the grant are: to improve and expand the degree to which Florida EMS has ensured the operational capacity to provide prehospital pediatric emergency care; to improve the capacity of Florida to ensure that essential resources and protocols are available in facilities where children receive care; to improve and expand the degree to which Florida has established permanence of EMSC in the Florida EMS system; and to improve and expand Florida's capacity to reduce and ameliorate pediatric emergencies.

NATIONAL PEDIATRIC READINESS PROJECT

The National Pediatric Readiness Project is a multi-phase quality improvement initiative to ensure that all U.S. emergency departments (ED) have the essential guidelines and resources in place to provide effective emergency care to children. Phase one of the National Pediatric Readiness Project is to conduct a national (online) assessment to measure ED pediatric readiness.

The assessment will allow project staff to identify where the gaps are and align resources and efforts to build the competency and capacity within each ED.

Florida EMSC started the assessment in February 2013 and still needs more responses.

To take the assessment or verify that your hospital has already completed the assessment, go to www.pedsready.org or contact the EMSC office.

PEDIATRIC TRANSPORT SAFETY IN RURAL EMS

Our program is working with the Florida Association of Rural EMS Providers (FAREMS) to identify rural EMS providers in need of pediatric transport equipment and education. We have purchased 100 Pedi-Mate restraint systems for distribution to rural agencies in Florida. Agencies that receive the equipment will receive a FREE training program focusing on pediatric transport safety and the proper use of the Pedi-Mate. All expenses will be covered by the Florida EMSC partnership grant.

To find out if your agency is eligible to receive the equipment and training, contact the EMSC office.

FREE PEDIATRIC EDUCATION PROGRAM AND/OR RESOURCES

Florida EMSC is offering FREE Pediatric/Neonatal education courses and resources within the state this grant year. If you are interested in having a pediatric/neonatal education course offered at your agency or are in need of pediatric educational resources, please contact Melissa Keahey, EMSC Program Manager.

INTERFACILITY TRANSFER GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN TOOLKIT

The EMSC Advisory Committee Pediatric Medical Emergency Facility Recognition Workgroup developed an Interfacility Transfer Guidelines for Children Toolkit. The toolkit is designed to be used as a model template and resource tool to improve pediatric care across the continuum. This toolkit is comprised of an introductory rationale that includes Florida regulatory references and a transfer guidelines template, as well as instructions on how to use the template. The toolkit can be downloaded from the Florida EMSC website: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/EMS/EMSC/EMSCHome.html>. For more information about the toolkit, please contact Melissa Keahey.

EMERGENCY GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS

The Emergency Guidelines for Schools (EGS), 2011 Florida Edition, is available for download at the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight website at www.fl-ems.com – select *EMS for Children*. The emergency guidelines are meant to serve as basic what-to-do-in-an-emergency information for school staff without nursing or medical training when the school nurse is not available.

BROSELOW PEDIATRIC ANTIDOTES FOR CHEMICAL WARFARE TAPE

If your organization is interested in receiving the above mentioned item, please contact Melissa Keahey, EMSC Program Manager at melissa_keahey@doh.state.fl.us or 850.245.4440, ext. 2686. Funding for these resources was provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bioterrorism Preparedness Grant.

PEDIATRIC PODCAST SERIES

The Florida EMSC Program is excited to kick-off a partnership with Kyle David Bates and his Pedi-U pediatric podcast series. Our first FREE podcast, titled "Kyle's a Disaster: Pediatric Disaster Preparedness", discusses pediatric preparedness issues for Florida EMS agencies and hospitals. Discussing the resulting issue is a panel of Florida providers with years of personal and professional experience in disaster preparedness and response: Jim Judge, Dave Freeman, Dr. Rex Northup and Dr. Lou Romig. This and other Pedi-U podcasts are provided free of charge and can be accessed and downloaded at www.pedi-u.com.

EMSC CONTACT INFORMATION

Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight
Emergency Medical Services for Children
Melissa Keahey, Program and Planning Manager
4042 Bald Cypress Way, Room 240Q (Physical)
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A22 (Mailing)
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1722
850.245.4440, ext. 2686
850.488.9408 (fax)
melissa_keahey@doh.state.fl.us

MATCHING GRANTS (401.113(2) (b), FLORIDA STATUTES

Last December 14, we started accepting new matching grant applications, and the deadline was March 29.

We have appointed and arranged for an evaluation team to review the applications submitted and provide a numeric score for each by late May. We will then make final decisions and provide awards in early June.

We expect to have approximately \$2.2 million to award.

The next opportunity to submit matching grant applications will begin this December 2013.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT GRANTS (401.113(2) (a), FLORIDA STATUTES

Fifty-seven county governments collectively requested and obtained \$2.9 million last year.

This year we will offer all county governments new funds beginning in July 2013. The amount of new funds plus money not claimed last year will be approximately \$2.65 million.

Addendum

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan, Director, Injury Prevention Program; Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support at 850.245.4440, ext. 2776 for further information.

MINI-GRANTS FOR CHILDHOOD DROWNING AND SENIOR FALLS PREVENTION

The IPP announces the awarding of thirty-three Child Drowning Prevention and Senior Falls Prevention mini-grants of \$1,200 to \$5,000 for a total of \$150,000. Twenty-one mini-grants for child drowning prevention were awarded for a total of \$97,150, and twelve mini-grants for senior falls prevention were awarded for a total of \$52,850. The mini-grants will assist in the purchase of goods and/or delivery of services for injury prevention projects focusing on child drowning prevention and senior falls prevention that will end by June 30, 2013.

“This is an exciting opportunity for us to promote and support local intervention efforts,” said Injury Prevention Program Director Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan, M.S. “We look forward to innovative strategies that have the potential to be replicated in other communities.”

These grants were made possible through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPP) Grant. The IPP hopes to adapt this mini-grant opportunity into an annual program.

Organizations and agencies awarded through this program included County Health Departments, Area Agencies on Aging, local Emergency Medical Services agencies, hospitals, Safe Kids Coalitions or Chapters, trauma centers, and other local/regional/state organizations/agencies with injury prevention related programs.

Awarded funds will be used to facilitate child drowning prevention or senior falls prevention projects, which include but are not limited to: swim lessons, child drowning awareness projects and training, falls prevention exercise-based programs, senior safety and awareness, and senior falls prevention education.

STATEWIDE PLANNING

FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL (FIPAC) MEETING

The next FIPAC meeting is scheduled to be held April 8–10, 2013, in Tampa, Florida, in conjunction with the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and Constituency meetings.

There will be a Distracted Driving Subcommittee meeting on April 8th at 1:00 PM. The general FIPAC meeting will start at 10:00 AM on April 9th and meet through 5:00 PM on April 10th. The FIPAC meeting will focus on the planning for the 2014–2018 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan and close out of the 2009–2013 Strategic Plan.

2009–2013 FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2009–2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan are available on the IPP website at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/injury/reports.html>. Hard copies are also available upon request.

The goals for the 2009–2013 plan is: Infrastructure (including data and evaluation), Collaboration, Senior Falls, Early Childhood Drowning, and Training. During the September 2011 FIPAC meeting, Goal Teams two and five were combined. Below is an update for each.

- **Data Workgroup:** The Data Workgroup met in September 2011 to provide updates on 2011 activities and to finalize the 2012 Action Plan.
- **GT2 Collaboration, and GT5 Training:** GT2 and GT5 have concluded implementation of the 2012 Action Plan strategies and activities with 91% and 100% of the activities implemented respectively. The Goal Teams created draft 2013 Action Plans during the October 2012 FIPAC meeting.

- **GT3 Senior Falls Prevention:** GT3 has been merged with the Statewide Senior Falls Prevention Coalition. Due to this organizational change, the combined workgroup has a revised action plan to be completed by the end of 2013 and will focus on increasing capacity for program and policy interventions to prevent falls among older adults. See Senior Falls Prevention Coalition for more details.
- **GT4, Early Childhood Water Safety and Drowning Prevention:** GT4 worked on and reviewed the development and implementation of the WaterproofFL Pool Safety and Drowning Prevention Campaign that is now available at <http://www.WaterproofFL.com>. They are currently working on developing and expanding the geographic focus of the WaterproofFL campaign for 2013 and making it more inclusive of the population.

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEES:

In accordance with the requirements of the 2011–2016 CDC Core Violence and Injury Prevention Program (Core VIPP) grant, a Policy Subcommittee within FIPAC has been formed. The Policy Subcommittee will work to create an overarching policy agenda for FIPAC, as well as to focus on two specific injury mechanisms, childhood drowning and senior falls prevention. These policy focus areas, senior falls prevention and distracted driving, were selected by FIPAC and are also data-driven.

- The **Senior Falls Prevention Policy Subcommittee** is currently implementing strategies to encourage policies that promote the use of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths, and Injuries (STEADI) toolkit for falls risk assessment. The Policy Subcommittee is looking at multiple areas and methods to integrate this toolkit in existing practices to increase the number of organizations and providers using standardized assessment.
- The **Distracted Driving Policy Subcommittee's** next face-to-face meeting is April 8th in Tampa from 1–5 PM. Topics will include an update on pending legislation, and development of goals for the next five year plan.

PROGRAM UPDATES

FLORIDA SPECIAL NEEDS OCCUPANT PROTECTION PROGRAM

The DOH IPP Florida Special Needs Occupant Protection Program grant ended September 30, 2012. The program has moved to the Florida Occupant Protection Resource Center housed at the University of [Florida's Occupant Protection Resource Center](#) (FOPRC). The transfer from the DOH IPP to the FOPRC will improve cost efficiency. We have enjoyed working with all of our partners on this program, and look forward to opportunities for collaboration on other injury prevention-related efforts.

For more information, please contact the FOPRC at floridaoprc@ce.ufl.edu.

FLORIDA TEEN SAFE DRIVING COALITION

The Injury Prevention Program is a member of the Florida Teen Safe Driving Coalition (FTSDC). Mary Crew is the representative on the coalition, which meets quarterly.

The coalition met face to face in West Palm Beach on February 28th and March 1st in conjunction with the Florida Student Government Association Annual Leadership Conference.

The FTSDC is working on its first annual Leadership Academy. It will be held in St. Petersburg on July 14–17, 2013. The academy will be made up of 10–15 teams, consisting of two teens per team. Teens will be selected through an application process that includes scoring of responses to essay questions.

The purpose of the academy is to train and empower teen leaders to address the issues of safe driving practices in their communities. It will include workshops on driving safety, effective planning strategies, and resources and tools to assist in implementing local events.

Teams attending the July 2013 academy must commit to organizing and hosting a teen safe driving campaign in their community. As teen board members they will be asked to provide input and feedback to the FTSDC and serve as ambassadors at other local driving safety events.

Sponsor support letters and media contact letters have been developed as well. For more information on the FTSDC, please visit <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Teen-Drivers.shtm>.

IMPAIRED DRIVING COALITION

The Injury Prevention Program is a member of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Impaired Driving Coalition. Mary Crew is the representative on the coalition.

The Coalition is comprised of agencies and organizations responsible for components of Florida's impaired driving system and/or that work to influence the effects of impaired driving. The Coalition was formed to draft a Strategic Impaired Driving Plan for Florida and to oversee implementation of the Strategic Plan, <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Impaired-Driving.shtm>.

The next face to face meeting of the Coalition is April 25–26 in Tampa.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COALITION

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight, a member of the Motorcycle Safety Coalition, aids in the implementation of Florida's Motorcycle Strategic Safety Plan,

<http://www.ridesmartflorida.com/images/floridamotorcyclestrategicsafetyplanfinal.pdf>, which is designed to provide a comprehensive strategy to address motorcycle safety issues by identifying goals, strategies, action steps, and performance measures for key program areas.

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Motorcycle-Safety.shtm>

SAFE KIDS FLORIDA

Safe Kids Florida is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide. This is a worldwide network of organizations working to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability for children ages 1 to 19. Safe Kids Florida consists of eleven local coalitions covering Baker, Broward, Clay, Collier, Dade, Duval, Flagler, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Nassau, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, St. Johns, Sarasota, and Volusia counties and five chapters covering Bay, Lake, Sumter, Leon, Marion, Okaloosa and Santa Rosa counties.

Mary Crew conducted a technical assistance visit to the Lake/Sumter chapter on February 27th. She also visited the Osceola and Marion chapters on March 4th. Plans are to visit the Okaloosa/Santa Rosa chapter and the Bay chapter in the very near future, as funds permits.

The next regularly scheduled coordinator conference call will occur on Tuesday, April 2nd, at 10 AM. The next regularly scheduled conference call of the Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, April 4th at 10 AM.

SAFE MOBILITY FOR LIFE COALITION

The Injury Prevention Program is a member of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Safe Mobility for Life Coalition. Mary Crew is the representative on the coalition. The Coalition meets quarterly.

The Safe Mobility for Life Coalition's mission is to improve the safety, access and mobility of Florida's aging road users by developing a comprehensive strategic plan to reduce injuries and crashes among this vulnerable population.

The next face-to-face meeting of the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition is scheduled for May 13–14, 2013 in Pasco County.

For additional information on the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition, please visit <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Aging-Road-Users.shtm>

SENIOR FALLS PREVENTION COALITION

Falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits for Florida's senior population.

The Coalition has begun to find ways to strengthen existing activities, including the implementation of Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance. The first statewide instructors' conference call was held on February 7, 2013, where instructors received updates on the program, connected with other instructors, and obtained technical assistance from an expert instructor from the Oregon Research Institute. The Coalition is also working to provide additional instructor certification courses to increase the number of instructors, as there is a high demand for this evidence-based intervention.

The Coalition will also evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the mini-grants (see Mini-Grants for Child Drowning Prevention and Senior Falls Prevention) to inform future supportive efforts for senior falls prevention interventions, including an anticipated outcomes evaluation for Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance.

The National Coalition on Aging (NCOA) released the national theme for Falls Prevention Awareness Day 2013 (September 22nd), which is “Preventing Falls—One Step at a Time.” The Coalition is currently planning for statewide efforts during the month of September, including local awareness events with intervention demos and the annual senior falls prevention webcast.

Members of the Coalition are also participating on the planning committee for the Emergency Medical Learning and Resource Center’s six-hour senior falls prevention educational event to be held on July 18, 2013 for EMS providers. This event will offer CEU’s and is being funded by the Winter Park Health Foundation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released the Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths, and Injuries (STEADI) toolkit for health care providers and older adults to assess falls risk. The Coalition is currently strategizing to disseminate this toolkit and encourage policies that promote the use of STEADI in assessment.

POOL SAFETY/DROWNING PREVENTION CAMPAIGN: Spring 2013 **– WaterproofFL “Pool Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility”**



Waterproof 2013 Campaign will begin statewide on April 1, 2013. Distribution of WaterproofFL materials, door alarms, Water Watcher tags, brochures, posters, and media packets will be sent to participating agencies by April.

WaterproofFL is the first statewide pool safety and child drowning prevention campaign. The campaign started in April 2011 with the theme, “Pool Safety is Everyone’s Responsibility,” and emphasized a multi-faceted approach to child drowning prevention through Layers of Protection.

The Layers of Protection emphasized are: supervision, barriers, and emergency preparedness. Each layer emphasized different responsibilities. Supervision emphasized the necessity to designate an adult water watcher during water-related activities; barriers emphasizes the need to correctly install and utilize fences, door alarms, window alarms, and other such barriers to in homes, and around pools and other bodies of water near your home; and emergency preparedness emphasized the need for knowledge of CPR and the ability to call 911 immediately.

The campaign's original point of contact and distribution was the local County Health Department in the counties with the highest number of swimming pool drowning fatalities of children ages 1–4. In its second year, WaterproofFL expanded to include the local CHDs and Safe Kids organizations. These partnerships allowed WaterproofFL to benefit from established programs designed and dedicated to promoting child safety issues. The expansion brought with it additional interest in and organized activities for promoting child drowning prevention awareness throughout the State. This led to the growth of awareness activities in geographic areas never known for child drowning prevention awareness. For the first time we developed a relationship with the Department of Children and Families who included WaterproofFL in its statewide newsletters and announcements targeted to South and Central Florida. This year in its third year, WaterproofFL is continuing its partnerships with the CHDs and Safe Kids organizations, and expanding to include some trauma hospitals, hospitals, and YMCAs.

A toll free number, 877.362.5033, and a website, <http://www.WaterproofFL.com>, are resources that provide information and tools for parents, caregivers, pool owners, and others on the need for child water safety and teaching the Layers of Protection necessary to protect Florida's children from drowning. If you are interested in receiving WaterproofFL printed materials, such as posters and brochures, to use with clients or at local health fairs, please contact your local CHD or contact Elizabeth White, the WaterproofFL Coordinator at Elizabeth_white@doh.state.fl.us or 850.245.4440, ext. 2709.

Data Section

Contact Stephanie Daugherty, Section Administrator, Data Section at 850.245.4440, ext. 2747 for further information.

HEALTH INFORMATION AND POLICY ANALYSIS PROGRAM

The Health Information and Policy Analysis Program within the Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight consists of the data staff from EMS, Trauma, BSCIP, and Injury. The integration of the data staff into one program area allows the Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight to capitalize on existing resources providing a much greater pool of resources and knowledge to address data collection and data quality needs, reporting and analysis needs, and technical needs; and combines similar operational processes for data collection, utilization, and reporting.

EMSTARS

The Health Information and Policy Analysis Program continue to make great strides with 153 agencies reporting to the EMS Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS), bringing the state repository to over 7.6 million incidents reported. The number of agencies moving to EMSTARS reporting continues to rise each month.

The EMS Advisory Council (EMSAC) Data Committee continues to play the major advocacy role contributing to the increase in agency data submissions. The Data Committee is committed to the advocacy, education and awareness of the benefits that EMSTARS brings to the quality of EMS service delivery in Florida.

Implementation of the EMSTARS version 3 is planned for 2013-2014. The Health Information and Policy Analysis Program is working with the software vendor, Intermedix, in the implementation of the state level repository for EMSTARS version 3.

The Health Information and Policy Analysis Program continue to be available for one-on-one visits and regional workshops with providers to facilitate training and/or implementation assistance as needed.

If your agency is interested in receiving assistance with your EMSTARS submissions or transitioning from aggregate data reporting to EMSTARS reporting at this time or in the near future, please contact Brenda Clotfelter at Brenda.Clotfelter@doh.state.fl.us, Stephanie Daugherty at StephanieC.Daugherty@doh.state.fl.us.

The NEMSIS National Reporting System based upon the National EMS Database can be found on the NEMSIS web site (www.nemsis.org) under the Reporting Tools tab (click on “Reports”, then “National Reports” and then “Access Reports”). Follow the directions to access the reports. You will notice Florida’s data is incorporated in the national aggregated reports.

NEMSIS VERSION 3 UPDATE

The program staff continues to work in concert with our federal partners, National EMS Information System (NEMSIS), EMS Advisory Council Data Committee, and the EMS Community to respond to the changes anticipated with NEMSIS version 3. The program staff are working with a third party vendor, Intermedix, to ensure that an appropriate state level implementation approach is utilized and adequately planned to minimize impact to local EMS provider agencies. The Data Committee and the Health Information and Policy Analysis Program will be working with Florida agencies over the next few years as the state transitions to the new standards.

The Florida EMS dataset for version 3 represents a new version of the Florida EMS dataset and is not a replacement of the current Florida EMS Data Dictionary version 1.4.1 (NEMSIS version 2.2.1 compliant). Although NEMSIS has released NEMSIS version 3, the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC) has indicated that they will continue to accept NEMSIS version 2.2.1 data from states until December 2014 to allow software vendors, states and agencies to implement NEMSIS version 3.

At this time and until further notification, the State will only accept files that are compliant with the current Florida EMS Data Dictionary version 1.4.1 (NEMSIS version 2.2.1 compliant) for agencies reporting to EMSTARS. EMS agencies who are currently submitting to EMSTARS should not transition to NEMSIS version 3 software prior to notification from the program staff on the transition / implementation plan. However, EMS agencies participating or that will be participating in EMSTARS should begin discussions with their vendor on their vendor’s implementation approach and timeline for transition to version 3.

EMS agencies that are procuring new ePCR (electronic patient care reporting) software should not finalize their negotiations without consultation with the EMSTARS team and are advised not to procure software that will not allow for Florida EMSTARS version 1.4.1 support until Florida is ready to begin its transition to accept NEMSIS version 3.

If your agency has questions regarding version 3, please contact Brenda Clotfelter at Brenda.Clotfelter@doh.state.fl.us, Stephanie Daugherty at StephanieC.Daugherty@doh.state.fl.us.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (EMRC)

The EMRC continues to analyze various sections of the medical databases. Focus areas for various members have been related to cardiovascular incidents, pediatric illness and injury, spinal cord immobilization, drug shortages, and stroke treatment and transport. The EMRC remains committed to analyzing measures provided in our state strategic plan and national EMS performance measures.

The EMS Program is thankful for the sacrifices of the members. The EMRC will provide evidence-based recommendations to change the shape of the EMS industry for the next four years. Steve McCoy is the EMRC contact and can be reached by e-mail at Steve.McCoy@doh.state.fl.us or by phone at (850)245-4440, ext. 2727. Please contact him if you have questions or need assistance with EMS research or quality improvement efforts. Visit the EMRC web page at <http://www.fl-ems.com/emrc.html> for additional information.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC

The concept of community paramedicine represents one of the most progressive and historically-based evolutions available to community-based healthcare and to the Emergency Medical Services arena. By utilizing Florida's Emergency Medical Service providers in an expanded role, community paramedicine could increase patient access to primary and preventative care, provide wellness interventions within the medical home model, decrease emergency department utilization, save healthcare dollars and improve patient outcomes. As the Community Paramedicine model continues to be adopted across the country, Florida's counties, local communities and state agencies will need assistance in identifying common opportunities and information on overcoming challenges.

The EMS Program intends to be a resource for insight into the future of Florida Community Paramedic programs. In addition, the EMS Program advocates for the development of community paramedic programs within this state. Steve McCoy is the contact for Community Paramedic questions and can be reached by e-mail at Steve.McCoy@doh.state.fl.us or by phone at (850 245-4440, ext. 2727. Please contact him if you have questions or need assistance with Community Paramedic efforts.